

Travis Link, Jesus Luna, James Mola, William Parsons, David Petrashevich, Geoffery Richards, Elliot Rosenberry, John Santana, Jared Solan, Jonathan Steuer, Nicholas Vlasich, and Keith Winston.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These outstanding graduates all exemplify these traits. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their commitment, hard work, and selfless sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these committed, hardworking individuals. Along with the other extraordinary men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have contributed in many ways to the growth and development of the economy in Indiana's First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

#### COMMENDING THE CHILDREN'S INN AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

##### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend The Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health, an extraordinary organization in my congressional district, which has worked for many years to provide a warm, supportive home environment for seriously ill children and families seeking cutting-edge treatment at the NIH.

Since it opened in June 1990, The Children's Inn has provided free lodgings to over 6,000 children and their families. The true extent of its services, however, goes far beyond the mere provision of living accommodations. By bringing seriously ill children and their families together in a warm, lively community that provides camaraderie and understanding, The Children's Inn has created invaluable support networks and friendships for children who face daily and often overwhelming challenges.

As we begin National Hospitality House Week, I am pleased to recognize and pay tribute to The Children's Inn and its staff and volunteers for their selfless commitment to some of the youngest and most fragile members of our community. Their generosity of spirit is inspiring and, through their actions, they serve as role models to so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent this special place—The Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health—and to honor it today.

#### CONDOLENCES TO THE NORTHUP FAMILY

##### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Kentucky's Third Congressional District, ANNE NORTHUP, along with her

husband, Woody, suffered the tragic loss of her son Joshua on Wednesday, July 12, 2006. By all accounts, Joshua was an outstanding young man who will be truly missed by his family and friends. Joshua was a 1998 graduate of Saint Joseph's College of Rensselaer, Indiana. In 1995, Joshua ventured to Tanzania, Africa with a priest from Saint Joseph's, where he continued his education and volunteered in a leper colony to help those most in need.

Joshua was employed at Humana, Inc., Louisville, Kentucky, where he was clearly a valued employee. Upon hearing the sad news, Humana issued the following statement: "Joshua was an exemplary Humana associate, beloved by his colleagues and held in high esteem by his supervisors. We are deeply saddened by his death and extend our thoughts, prayers and heartfelt sympathy to his family."

Funeral services were held for Joshua at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Louisville, Kentucky, on Saturday, July 15, 2006. Joshua is survived by his parents, ANNE and Woody NORTHUP, and five brothers and sisters: David, Katie, Kevin, Mark and Erin.

On behalf of the entire congressional delegation from Kentucky, as well as her colleagues from across the Nation, we offer our most sincere condolences to the entire Northup family.

#### CONGRATULATING THE ORGANIZERS, PARTICIPANTS, AND PATRONS OF THE 25TH ANNUAL W.C. HANDY MUSIC FESTIVAL

##### HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the organizers, participants, and patrons of the 25th Annual W.C. Handy Music Festival, which begins on July 21 and lasts until July 30.

The W.C. Handy Festival is named after Florence, Alabama, native William Christopher Handy. Mr. Handy, who is remembered today as the "Father of Blues," was born in 1873 in a log cabin that his grandfather built. He left Florence in 1892, settling in Memphis, Tennessee, where he penned his most recognized composition, "St. Louis Blues." Before his death in 1958, W.C. Handy wrote over 150 songs and his widespread appeal is credited with popularizing blues music into America's cultural mainstream.

Mr. Speaker, beginning with the birth of Mr. Handy and continuing today, the Shoals Region of Northwest Alabama has a storied musical history. The Shoals area is also the birthplace of the "Father of Rock and Roll" Sam Phillips, who discovered artists such as Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, and Jerry Lee Lewis. The region is also the home of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame, as well as generations of musicians, composers, songwriters, and internationally recognized recording studios and producers. Over the last 50 years, musical legends such as Aretha Franklin, the Rolling Stones, and some of today's musical superstars have recorded many of their biggest hits in the area.

Each year, the Music Preservation Society organizes this unique festival to pay tribute to

W.C. Handy's legacy and the area's rich musical heritage. Thousands of musical patrons are entertained through more than 200 events at locations throughout the Shoals. Musical acts range from a wide variety of blues, jazz, gospel, R&B, soul, and country acts. The artists perform live in local restaurants, nightclubs, theatres, parks, libraries, art galleries, churches, malls, museums, and street corners throughout the region.

The Festival, which began in 1982 featuring jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie, has continued to grow each year. Past headlining acts have included Clarence Carter, the Manhattan Transfer, and Percy Sledge. In its 25-year history, National Geographic, the Southeast Tourism Society, Travelocity.com, the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, and the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel have recognized the festival as one of the top events in the South.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate and applaud the efforts of the Music Preservation Society Board of Directors and staff, and the festival's volunteers and musicians who make this celebration of the cultural heritage of northwest Alabama a reality each year.

#### MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

##### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to House Joint Resolution 88, which would amend our Constitution to deny basic rights to gays and lesbians. I would like to express my disappointment in the Republican leadership for once again bringing this divisive and discriminatory amendment before Congress.

Our Constitution has guided our Nation for over 200 years. During that time, it has been amended to guarantee religious liberty, equal protection, and the right to vote. Not once has it been amended to take away rights from a specific group of people. Yet that is what this legislation would do.

Of course, this constitutional amendment will not be adopted; it failed to garner even a simple majority only weeks ago in the Senate. We are wasting our time on this because Republican pollsters have concluded that targeting gays and lesbians is a winning election strategy.

Mr. Speaker, our fellow citizens deserve better. Same-sex couples are trying to raise families, pay the bills, get health care for their partners, and put their kids through college. Instead of working to help them, we are debating whether to permanently deny them over 1,000 rights and benefits given to married heterosexual couples. We should be striving for fairness and equality, not singling them out for discrimination.

Americans are sick and tired of political gamesmanship. They want a Congress that will address the real challenges our Nation faces: health care, energy security, education, economic opportunity. The Republican leadership has once again let down the American people, and I urge my colleagues to reject this effort to distract and divide.